

2014 -- H 7828

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LC004592  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, Walsh, Amore, Serpa, and Messier

Date Introduced: March 04, 2014

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended  
2 by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 21.6

4 INTERNET FILTERING IN SCHOOLS

5 **16-21.6-1. Internet filtering.** -- (a) "Internet filtering measures" means the use of a  
6 specific technology or program to block or filter access to websites on the Internet.

7 (b) Each school district shall adopt a written policy addressing the use of Internet filtering  
8 measures for computer access in its schools. Any such policy shall:

9 (1) Include the specific categories of websites that are blocked by the Internet filtering  
10 measures in use; the basis for including those categories; and the individuals who are responsible  
11 for making those decisions;

12 (2) Establish a procedure for teachers to request that a blocked website be unblocked in a  
13 timely manner; and

14 (3) Specify the criteria used for overruling a request to allow access to a website that is  
15 blocked by the Internet filtering measures, and require that the teacher making such a request be  
16 provided particular reasons any time a request is denied.

17 (c) Each school district shall maintain a public record of any requests to allow access to a  
18 website that is blocked by the Internet filtering measures, and the response provided, and submit  
19 an annual report to the school committee on the number of requests granted and denied to

1 [unblock a website.](#)

2 [\(d\) Each school district shall annually review the requests made in the preceding year](#)  
3 [pursuant to subsection \(b\)\(2\) of this section for unblocking of sites in order to determine whether](#)  
4 [the categories and standards contained in the policy adopted pursuant to subsection \(b\)\( 1\) of this](#)  
5 [section should be revised.](#)

6 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

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1           This act would allow schools to employ filtering measures to block or filter access to  
2 websites on the Internet. It would also mandate each school district to adopt a written policy that  
3 addresses the use of Internet filtering measures for computer access in schools.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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